

- (ii) an institution of higher education (as defined in section 1001(a) of title 20);
- (B) has demonstrated knowledge about—
  - (i) sequestration and utilization of carbon dioxide; or
  - (ii) aggregation of organic waste from multiple sources into a single biogas system; and
- (C) has a demonstrated ability to conduct educational and technical support programs.

**(b) Establishment**

The Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of Energy, shall make competitive grants to eligible entities—

- (1) to provide education to the public about the economic and emissions benefits of permanent sequestration or utilization of carbon dioxide with a primary objective of providing benefits and opportunities for rural businesses, rural communities, and utilities serving rural communities; or
- (2) to provide education to agricultural producers and other stakeholders about opportunities for aggregation of organic waste from multiple sources into a single biogas system.

**(c) Funding**

There are authorized to be appropriated for each of fiscal years 2019 through 2023—

- (1) \$1,000,000 to carry out subsection (b)(1); and
- (2) \$1,000,000 to carry out subsection (b)(2).

(Pub. L. 107–171, title IX, §9014, as added Pub. L. 115–334, title IX, §9011, Dec. 20, 2018, 132 Stat. 4887.)

**CHAPTER 108—TREE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**

Sec.	
8201.	Definitions.
8202.	Eligibility.
8203.	Assistance.
8204.	Limitations on assistance.
8205.	Authorization of appropriations.

**§ 8201. Definitions**

In this chapter:

**(1) Eligible orchardist**

The term “eligible orchardist” means a person that produces annual crops from trees for commercial purposes.

**(2) Natural disaster**

The term “natural disaster” means plant disease, insect infestation, drought, fire, freeze, flood, earthquake, lightning, and other occurrence, as determined by the Secretary.

**(3) Secretary**

The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of Agriculture.

**(4) Tree**

The term “tree” includes a tree, bush, and vine.

(Pub. L. 107–171, title X, §10201, May 13, 2002, 116 Stat. 490.)

**§ 8202. Eligibility**

**(a) Loss**

Subject to subsection (b), the Secretary shall provide assistance under section 8203 of this

title to eligible orchardists that planted trees for commercial purposes but lost the trees as a result of a natural disaster, as determined by the Secretary.

**(b) Limitation**

An eligible orchardist shall qualify for assistance under subsection (a) only if the tree mortality of the eligible orchardist, as a result of damaging weather or related condition, exceeds 15 percent (adjusted for normal mortality).

(Pub. L. 107–171, title X, §10202, May 13, 2002, 116 Stat. 490.)

**§ 8203. Assistance**

Subject to section 8204 of this title, the assistance provided by the Secretary to eligible orchardists for losses described in section 8202 of this title shall consist of—

- (1) reimbursement of 75 percent of the cost of replanting trees lost due to a natural disaster, as determined by the Secretary, in excess of 15 percent mortality (adjusted for normal mortality); or
- (2) at the option of the Secretary, sufficient seedlings to reestablish a stand.

(Pub. L. 107–171, title X, §10203, May 13, 2002, 116 Stat. 491.)

**§ 8204. Limitations on assistance**

**(a) Amount**

The total amount of payments that a person shall be entitled to receive under this chapter may not exceed \$75,000, or an equivalent value in tree seedlings.

**(b) Acres**

The total quantity of acres planted to trees or tree seedlings for which a person shall be entitled to receive payments under this chapter may not exceed 500 acres.

**(c) Regulations**

The Secretary shall promulgate regulations—

- (1) defining the term “person” for the purposes of this chapter, which shall conform, to the maximum extent practicable, to the regulations defining the term “person” promulgated under section 1308 of this title (before the amendment made by section 1603(a)<sup>1</sup> of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008); and
- (2) promulgating such regulations as the Secretary determines necessary to ensure a fair and reasonable application of the limitation established under this section.

(Pub. L. 107–171, title X, §10204, May 13, 2002, 116 Stat. 491; Pub. L. 110–234, title I, §1603(g)(4), May 22, 2008, 122 Stat. 1011; Pub. L. 110–246, §4(a), title I, §1603(g)(4), June 18, 2008, 122 Stat. 1664, 1740; Pub. L. 113–79, title I, §1609(b)(1), Feb. 7, 2014, 128 Stat. 709.)

REFERENCES IN TEXT

Section 1308 of this title (before the amendment made by section 1603(a) of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008), referred to in subsec. (c)(1), means section 1308 of this title before the amendment by sec-

<sup>1</sup> See References in Text note below.